

saying, " I want an egg for my supper." When, presently, he was upstairs with her and she went out of the room for a moment, he did what is only understandable in terms of an unconscious wish to be castrated, and thus prove her hostile and vengeful, that is to say, he got down on the floor close to the door and sat with his fingers in such a position that she could not open the door from the outside without hurting his fingers. This actually did happen. His mother came in, not knowing he had moved from his position in his chair, and his fingers were slightly hurt before she could stay the movement of the door. He was then able to cry pitifully in such a way as to draw his father's attention to the injury his mother had done him. That is to say, he was representing himself as entirely passive and helpless and his mother as the active vengeful person. He then became more infantile in his behaviour than he had shown himself for a long time, insisting on being fed and on having the milk warm and sweet. The regressive movement, therefore, from the identification with his father and rivalry with him in the masculine attitude towards his mother, to the early phase of identification with the mother, is very clearly shown; and together with that, his dread of the mother as a rival for his father's love, which led him to engineer that she should actually hurt him.

This attempted solution of the boy's problem of rivalry with his father is, however, far from satisfactory, since the identification with the mother itself reinforces the vast anxieties attaching to castration phantasies. The boy can only become his mother by being castrated.

9. " COSY PLACES "

The love of making cosy places of one sort or another is

quite general in small children, both boys and girls. I have been struck by the frequency with which it occurs. Whenever the younger children in the school had an opportunity, they would arrange the chairs and tables so as to make a " cosy place " with a defensive rampart. Occasionally it would be a solitary day-dreaming child who made a " cosy place " for himself. But commonly it was a co-operative affair between two or three children. The defensive element comes out clearly here and there—" so that nobody can look in ", " to keep us warm ", " to